

THE GENEALOGY OF SARAH JONES CUMMINGS

SARAH JONE'S PARENTS

Sarah Jones was the daughter of Elisha Jones and Margeret Talbott. Elisha Jones was the son of Thomas Jones and Mary Naylor. He was born June 11, 1813 in Jefferson County Ohio. Her mother, Margeret Talbott was the daughter of Absolom Talbott and Sarah Mullholland of Maryland. She was born March 15, 1815.

They came to Utah in 1850 in Mathew Caldwell's Company, settling in Heber City. Elisha Jones acted in the capacity of High Priest, Bishop of East ward of Heber and Justice of the Peace. He was also an Indian War Veteran, Farmer, Blacksmith and Shoemaker. He died August 1880 at Heber City.

Besides Margeret Talbott, Elisha Jones married, Sarah Ann Cummings, Anna Poulsen, and Caraline Delight Allen. His children numbered 28. 14 from his first wife of which Sarah was the 6th child.

.....

HISTORY OF SARAH JONES CUMMINGS

She was born 31 day of May 1842 at Pennsville, Morgan Co., Ohio. Her childhood was probably spent in much the same way as all other children in the early days of the church.

At the time the saints were driven from Nauvoo, Sarah with her parents and brothers and sisters came West from Ohio with the rest of the Saints.

All the hardships of those early days were only character builders for the splendid life which followed. She was then 8 years of age.... coming to Utah in 1850.

At the age of 10 she was baptized and again after coming to this valley she was rebaptized 19 oct. 1879 by Elisha Jones.

April 4, 1860, Sarah Jones and Issac Cummings were married at Provo at the home of Robert Duke by Jonathan Duke. Her husband came of the same good stock she did. Driving an Ox Team across the plains he came to Utah in 1852. Assisted by his parents in bringing perhaps the first or nearly the first sheep brought to Utah. The historical events of his life stand as a monument to him. Among some of them are the following. He helped haul the cornerstone for the first permanent meeting house in Provo. "Babe" as he was commonly known was one of the forty sent to intercept Johnson's army in 1857. He also passed thru the Walker and Black-Hawk Indian War. In 1859 when he came to this valley he and Bob Parker plowed the first furrow ever turned by a white man in Wasatch County.

Living for awhile in Provo they then made their wedding journey thru Provo Canyon in a blinding snow storm, thus showing the valor and courage possessed by those in search of a future home.

They made their first home in a one roomed log cabin at the location where Joe Hilton now has his home. This first home had but one door and one window, with dirt roof and a dirt floor, typical of the early homes of those days. Nevertheless peace and happiness were theirs and thru-out the struggle and hardships love prevailed.

Here in this humble abode ten of their twelve children were born. In 1867 with four small children they went to Salt Lake City,

Sarah Jones (Continued)

where they were sealed for all time and eternity in the Endowment House by Heber C. Kimball.

The early married life of Sarah Cummings was marked by many trials and hardships, known only to those who were forced to give up pleasant homes and surroundings to come to a new country for the sake of that beloved gospel which means so much to the lives of all of us.

When her children were yet small, Sarah, like many others of that day would shear the sheep, wash and cord the wool, spin it into cloth and make the cloth into clothes. Not only did she sew for her own family but she and Mary Crook, Maggie Hidsen, Mary Anne Duke made most of the burial clothes and did much tailoring mainly in the line of mens suits.

Many times she has taken one or two children, leaving the older ones home to mind the babies and tend the house, while she would go into the fields gleaning wheat. All day long at this tiresome job would probably bring the reward of enough wheat to take home for a meal. She would have to pound the wheat into mash and then make bread for the family.

Although these seem to us as very hard times as indeed they were, yet there were families still poorer and in worse condition. They made their first home in a one roomed log cabin at the location where Joe Hilton now has his home. The families in better conditions had the opportunity of sharing with those less fortunate than themselves. There existed in this little community a feeling of brotherly love which is fast becoming a thing of the past. Now it is everyone for himself. But not so with Sarah Cummings she was happiest when she was bringing comfort and gladness to those in distress. If but a kind word, she was remembered for it. As here husband of ten told her, Sarah if there are any poor and sick, take them something to eat and wear, for there are many less fortunate than we. She would buy yarn and invite her friends to come and knit for the poor. These times were sociable and will long remain in the memory of those who attended. After the work was done, refreshments in the form of Johnny Cake and honey, was served.

She was very attentive to those whose husbands and fathers were on missions. At one time she took a new apron to each of the girls of the family whose father was on a mission.

Wherever she went she was loved for her cheery smile and pleasant word which she had for everyone.

As for sickness she was always found ready to serve either with her presence or if unable she would send needed things.

The later years of life were more prosperous. Her family with one of the others were the only two familys in Heber that could buy a sack of sugar at one time.

Throughout her life she was an active member in the church. In 1892 she was chosen First Counsellor to Anna R. Duke in the Stake Board Y.W.M.I.A.

June 12, 1895 she was chosen President of Heber West Ward Relief Society and Sept. 23, 1895 She took the place of Mary Daybell as Second Counsellor to Emma Brown in the Stake Relief Society.

The later years of her life were marked by a prolonged illness. Even in her affliction she was devoted to her duties in the church. Probably the last visit she made in the Mutual she was carried to the sleigh. For eighteen months before her death she was confined to her bed. Her kind and loving husband spared no expense in the employment of medical aid in hopes of assisting his wife to regain her health but all was to no avail, the disease seeming to baffle the remedies of the most learned of physicians.

Sarah Jones (Continued)

Finally Monday morning December 7, 1997 at 1:00 clock, this noble woman was relieved from her sufferings. Death was due to inanition or exhaustion caused from organic and functional stomach and liver troubles.

So another wonderful woman had completed her work here. She left a family of eleven children, one already preceding her to the grave. Her labors here gained her many friends, all who grieved at her going. But most of all she left a sorrowful devoted, family. Eight years later "Babe" bowed down by the loss of his mate, passed on to join her in that beautiful land to receive the reward for their excellent, faithful and loving work on this earth.

There some of their children and grand children have joined them in heaven.

.....

To Date their posterity includes 12 children. 49 grandchildren. 125 greatgrand-children and 37 great-greatgrand-children. Of this number 2 grandsons have fulfilled honorable missions and one granddaughter has fulfilled a mission and one grandson is in the Stake Presidency.

The following tribute published at the time of her death shows the high esteem and respect which she gained in her work here.